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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 17 March 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and, with reference to his letter dated 19 December 2005, has the honour to transmit herewith comments on the matrix prepared by the Committee summarizing Egypt's October 2004 report (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 17 March 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Comments on the matrix prepared by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) summarizing Egypt's October 2004 report (March 2006)

Egypt does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction as such weapons are of no strategic value and no relevance to the defensive conventional military doctrine developed and maintained by the Armed Forces. (Can be reflected under "(1) General statement on non-possession of WMD" and "(2) General Statement on non-provision of WMD and related materials to non-States Actors", OP1).

President Mubarak of Egypt presented in April 1990 the first initiative of its kind, calling for the establishment of a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, in the Middle East. (Can be reflected under "(15) Other", OP1).

Furthermore, Egypt has most actively participated in the negotiations of the Conference on Disarmament leading to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). While fully supportive of the objectives of the Convention, Egypt has not joined its membership due to the significant imbalance of commitments taken by regional States. This political linkage has absolutely no other motivations and represent no objection against the Convention itself. The same position applies to the Biological Weapons Convention and the Hague Code of Conduct.

Regarding the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), the Government has recently recommended its ratification and is currently working on the completion of ratification procedures. (Can be reflected under "(8) CPPNM", OP1).

The Government of Egypt wishes to highlight in its national legislation the Act no. 59 of 1960 which regulates the use of nuclear material and its safe management and which at the same time only permits the use and handling of nuclear material by Government agencies working in this field under strict regulatory control.

It is essential to further highlight that the national legislation Act no. 4 of 1994 (currently reflected only in OP3 (a) and (b) under (8) "Measures to secure storage") prohibits the transfer and/or management of dangerous substances and hazardous waste of the establishment of any facilities for their processing except through licensing by the responsible national authority and the Environmental Affairs Authority. The act can be referred to in other relevant segments of the table especially in OP3 (a) and (b).

The Government of Egypt is also in the final phases of drafting a national Act establishing a State System for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Material which will be responsible for monitoring and controlling all nuclear material in the country.